

Published by T. Goddard, 1, Pall Mall, 1815.

239. B. 28.
239 A 73



London, Printed and Published by T. Goddard, Military Library, No. 1 Pall Mall. 1813.

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PREFACE.

THE Publisher of the present Work having already obtained the sanction of the Military Public, in his endeavours faithfully to represent the Costume of the various Armies of Europe, feels a particular degree of confidence in offering to the world the *Military Costume of India.*

Not that the splendour which must naturally communicate itself to the military circumstances of troops employed in the service of India, should on that account alone attract a portion of public attention; but that the aid of a service, at once so brilliant and important, should not be omitted in an effort towards such general interests;

and nothing be wanting, from any quarter, that could conduce to the advantage of the Service in general.

To render the aid, thus to be obtained, as efficient as possible, particular descriptions, local as well as professional, will accompany every Figure, and give a new interest to the plan of the Work.

But there is a more important point intended to be gained, in rendering the representations of the *Military Costume of India* efficient in a practical view: this is, the adapting them to the series of Motions of the Manual and Platoon Exercise, as it is directed to be practised by authority; exhibiting to the officer not only the uniform and characteristic distinctions of the different regiments, but the various positions corresponding with the word of command; by which it is hoped that the younger branches of the Service may be induced to a more particular consideration

of this important, if not vital, part of an Officer's duty. It was by such means, whatever the levity of inconsiderate military genius may have advanced, that Cæsar himself, as recorded by Hirtius, gained the battle of Pharsalia, and defeated an infinitely superior force ;---by such trifles, as they have been deemed, as *oblique firing*, and the *throwing back a wing!*

This may be admitted as certain, that whatever is required of the Soldier---whether *marching*, *wheeling*, *the management of the firelock*, or even *standing at ease*---must be taught with critical accuracy ; otherwise "*slovenliness must take place, labor be ineffectual, and the end proposed will never be gained.*" And although the art of marching, according to Marshal Saxe and the best tacticians of all nations, is confessedly an object of paramount consideration, it does not, therefore, follow, that the firelock is to be neglected. To march well is certainly a

grand *desideratum*; but unless a battalion is expert in the use of the Firelock---can fire well, and charge well----marching, in itself, will not avail against a determined, well-disciplined enemy.

Such are the claims upon which this Work is, with every deference, submitted to the high and extensive patronage of that profession to which it so advantageously extends ---claims, which there is no doubt will be admitted by the generosity which gives life and vigour to every useful effort of the Arts.

INTRODUCTION.

IN order to render THE EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE MANUAL AND PLATOON EXERCISES as complete as the nature of the subject will admit, it appears necessary to subjoin the POSITION OF THE SOLDIER UNDER ARMS, as laid down in the Regulations; and a few cursory remarks *on Firing*.

POSITION OF THE SOLDIER, &c.

" The equal squareness of the shoulders and body to the front, is the " first and great principle of the position of the Soldier.—The heels must " be in a line, and closed—The knees straight without stiffness—The toes " turned out, so that the feet may form an angle of about 60 degrees— " The arms hang near the body, but not stiff; the flat of the hand and " little finger touching the thigh, and the thumbs as far back as the " seams of the breeches—The elbows and shoulders are to be kept back " —The belly rather drawn in; and the breast advanced, but without " constraint—The body to be upright, but inclining rather forwards, so " that the weight of it may bear chiefly on the fore part of the feet—The " head to be erect; neither turning to the right nor to the left; the eyes " alone will be glanced to the right.

" The body of the Soldier being in this position, the firelock is to be " placed in his left hand, against the shoulder; his wrist to be a little " turned out; the thumb alone to appear in front; the four fingers to be " under the butt; and the left elbow to be rather bent inwards, so as " not to be separated from the body, or to be more backward or forward " than the right one.—The firelock must rest full on the hand, not on " the end of the fingers; and be carried in such manner as not to raise, " advance, or keep back one shoulder more than the other; the butt " must therefore be forward, and as low as can be permitted without " constraint; *the fore part a very little before the front of the thigh*; and

"the hind part of it pressed by the wrist against the thigh: it must be "kept steady and firm before the hollow of the shoulder: should it be "drawn back or carried too high, the one shoulder would be advanced, "the other kept back, and the upper part of the body would be distorted, "and not square, with respect to the limbs."

The Soldier being thus steadied in his proper position, accuracy will soon become habitual;—no motion, however trifling, will be slurred over, but every thing performed with life and energy.

FIRING.

That the slaughter of our fellow-creatures should become a subject of earnest calculation and enquiry, is really a most deplorable consideration; but so long as nations are liable to be thrown into a state of hostility—so long, in fact, "as war continues to be the absurd and unchristian "mode of deciding national disputes,"—however humanity may recoil at the idea, the inquiry becomes indispensably necessary:—it originates in self-preservation; and though in itself a sore evil, its main and ultimate object is the restoration of peace.

Various opinions have been offered by professional writers upon this momentous point; but the prevalent opinion seems at present to be in favor of *file firing*, which, when briskly and coolly kept up, cannot fail to be extremely galling and destructive. But still it is much to be doubted, whether the most effectual fire against Cavalry is not *by ranks*; and it is believed by many, that this fire would, more than any other, check even a charge of Infantry.

Oblique firing is not so generally practised as it ought to be, nor are all its advantages duly appreciated; and yet this fire is eminently useful on many occasions. Should the enemy advance in column, or on a front inferior to your own, his flanks will not escape the oblique fire of the out-flanking portion of your force. If he threaten any particular portion of your line, those parts not menaced may cross an oblique fire upon him. To decrease the obliquity of such fractions of your line, they may be wheeled up a small degree, if necessary.

The oblique fire might even, on certain occasions, be used, with good

effect, against an enemy of equal front; for your fire thus converging, will be more certain; and if the aim is just, no part of the enemy's front can escape your transverse obliquity. But to secure the full effect of this mode of firing, it should seldom commence until the enemy is within 140 or 150 paces.

By this mode you will at any time be able to accumulate the greatest possible fire on any given point, whether attack or defence be your object.

In a military point of view, the fire of Infantry is of the first importance. Much has been advanced in favor of *quick firing*;—and whole volumes have even been compiled, relative to the different modes of loading a musquet! as if an increase of noise and smoke were really the object in view: for certainly that quick hurried mode of firing can be productive of little else.

But in regard to the posture and best position for firing and aiming;—on the simplest and best method of instructing the Soldier, and giving him the degree of accuracy and address he ought to have, and without which, no calculation can be made on the effect of his fire,—little or nothing has been advanced, beyond the few remarks laid down in the Manual and Platoon Exercises; and the Weimar Editions *De l'Art de Guerre*, under whose authority we may venture a few suggestions.

Platoons have sometimes commenced firing at three or four hundred yards: but though the firelock will kill at a much greater distance, yet it is well known that the fire of Infantry has but little effect beyond 150 or 180 yards, and should seldom be ordered before.

Firing too high—particularly in the rear ranks, is a general and confessedly a bad fault. To remedy which, the caution on all occasions now is "*level low*;"—this is also a bad fault—all extremes must be guarded against. No general rule can be laid down for firing, except that *the level of the piece must uniformly be determined by the distance of the object aimed at.*

Without affecting to talk to Soldiers about the laws of gravitation, there are, in regard to firing, some very simple rules, which ought to be considered as axioms, and strongly inculcated as such; though it is not at all necessary that the Battalion should be taught the theory on which these rules are founded.

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THE

MANUAL EXERCISE.

EXPLANATIONS.

MOTIONS. — WORDS OF COMMAND.

1st. Bring the right hand briskly up, and place it under the cock, keeping the firelock steady. — 1st. *Secure Arms.*

2d. Quit the butt with the left hand, and seize the firelock with it at the swell, bringing the elbow close down upon the lock; the right hand kept fast in this motion, and the piece still upright.

3d. Quit the right hand, and bring it down to your right side, bringing the firelock to the *Secure* under the left arm, and the hand rather below the hip.

N. B.

1st. The same as first motion of *Securing*. — 2d. *Shoulder Arms.*

2d. Left hand grasps the butt.

3d. Right hand is brought smartly down.

MANUAL EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

3d.

Order Arms.

1*st.* Seize the firelock with the right hand at the lower loop, just at the swell.

2*d.* Bring it down to the right side, to the *Trail;* the butt as low down as the arm will admit without constraint, the muzzle a little advanced.

3*d.* Drop the butt on the ground, placing the muzzle against the hollow of the right shoulder, and the hand flat upon the sling.



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A Recruit should be practised to aim according to the distance of the object. For this purpose, a canvas, with two or three rough figures drawn in the shape of men six feet high, might be set up, instead of a common target. At this canvas the Soldiers should be taught to fire with attention and judgment. First, the figures might be fixed at 300 yards, and the men ordered to aim at the head:—then the distance might be reduced to 200 yards, the aim at the breast:—lastly, the figures might be brought within 100 yards, and the Soldiers directed to aim at the centre:—explaining to them the difference between the line of level and the line of fire.

As soon as each individual is well grounded in the right method of aiming according to distance, firing should be ordered by sections—subdivisions—divisions—wings—and lastly, by Battalion. In these latter firings, a dozen figures might be set up, drawn in form of a subdivision. Till the Men had acquired due precision, Officers ought to mention *the distance* and aim required.—Practice and moderate care would soon induce general accuracy; and a Battalion, in this easy and simple manner, would infallibly attain the habit of aiming correctly, at any given distance. A few medals, or other marks of distinction, might be held out, to excite emulation. The advantages that would result from such a method would soon be visible, and they would be incalculable. A Battalion so trained would carry destruction at every shot; and on actual service, after one or two rounds, no troops on earth would be in a condition to resist their charge.

MANUAL



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MANUAL EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

4th. Fix Bayonets.

1st. At the word *Fix*, place the thumb of the right hand, as quick as possible, behind the barrel; taking a gripe of the firelock.

2d. As soon as the word of command is fully given, push the firelock a little forward, at the same time drawing out the bayonet with the left hand, and fixing it with the utmost celerity. The instant this is done, return, as quick as possible, to the *Order*, as above described, and stand perfectly steady.

N. B.

5th. Shoulder Arms.

1st. Take a gripe of the firelock as in fixing bayonets.

2d. The firelock is without any appearance of effort thrown into its proper position on the left shoulder (which requires no figure.)

MANUAL EXERCISE.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	MOTIONS.
6th. *Present Arms.*	1*st.* Seize the firelock with the right hand, under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving it from the shoulder.
	2*d.* Raise the firelock up from the shoulder to the *Poize*, by placing the left hand upon the sling; fingers pointing upwards; the wrist upon the guard, and the point of the left thumb of an equal height with, and opposite to, the left eye; the piece to be kept perpendicular in this position.
	3*d.* Bring down the firelock with a quick motion, as low as the right hand will admit without constraint, drawing back the right foot at the same instant, so that the hollow of it may touch the left heel.---The firelock in this position, with the guard to the front, to be totally supported in the left hand, and opposite to the left thigh; the right hand lightly holding the small of the butt; the fingers pointing rather downwards; the body to rest entirely on the left foot; both knees straight.



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MANUAL EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

7th. Shoulder Arms.

At the 1st motion the firelock is brought to its proper position on the left shoulder, (as before described,) and the right foot brought up to its original position.

At the 2d motion, the right hand is smartly brought down to the right side, (which does not require the illustration of a figure.)

8th. Port Arms.

At one motion the firelock is smartly thrown from the shoulder across the body, to a diagonal position, the lock to the front and at the height of the breast; the barrel crossing opposite the point of the left shoulder, the butt proportionably depressed; (and though not particularly noted in the Regulations, *both elbows close.*)

The right hand grasps the small of the butt, and the left holds the piece at the swell, close to the lower pipe—thumbs pointing towards the muzzle.

MANUAL EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

9th. Charge Bayonets. Make a half face to the right, and bring down the firelock to nearly a horizontal position, with the muzzle inclining a little upwards, and the right wrist resting against the hollow of the thigh, below the hip.

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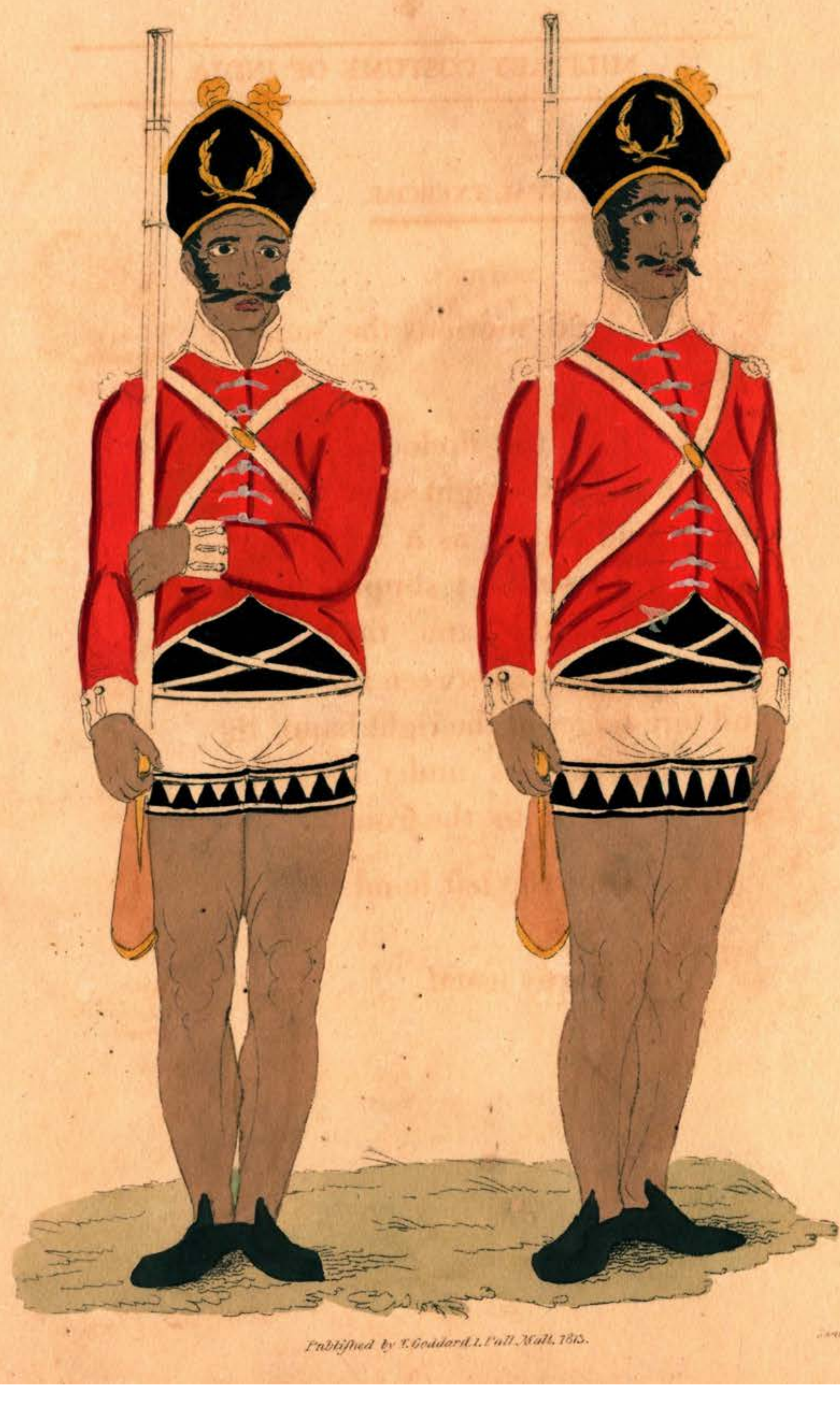
10th. Shoulder Arms. At the first motion the firelock is thrown to its proper position on the shoulder; grasping the butt with the left, and at the same instant coming to the proper front.

At the 2d motion, the right hand is brought smartly down; (which is sufficiently obvious without figures.)



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MANUAL EXERCISE.

MOTIONS. — WORDS OF COMMAND.

1st and 2d motions the same as the *Present*. — *11th. Advance Arms.*

3*d*. Bring the firelock down (as per figure) to the right side, with the right hand as low as it will admit, without constraint; slipping up the left hand at the same time to the swell, the guard between the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the three last fingers under the cock, with the guard to the front.

4*th*. Quit the left hand.

Motions as usual. — *12th. Shoulder Arms.*

MANUAL EXERCISE.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	MOTIONS.
13th. *Support Arms.*	1*st.* Seize the small of the butt, under the lock, with the right hand, the thumb pointing upwards.
	2*d.* Bring the left arm under the cock.
	3*d.* Quit the right hand.
14*th.* *Carry Arms.*	Motions as usual.



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THE

PLATOON EXERCISE.

EXPLANATIONS.

MOTIONS. | WORDS OF COMMAND.

1st. *Make ready.*

BRING the firelock to the *Recover*, by throwing it briskly from the shoulder, the guard to the front, and instantly cock as soon as the left hand seizes the piece above the lock; the right elbow is to be nimbly raised a little, placing the thumb upon the cock, and the fingers open by the plate of the lock; then drop the elbow as quick as possible, forceing down the cock with the thumb.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	MOTIONS.
2d. *Present.*	Slip the left hand along the sling as far as the swell of the firelock; bring the piece down to the *Present*, stepping back (as per Figure) six inches to the rear, with the right foot, and look steadily along the barrel.
* 3d. *Fire.*	Pull the trigger firmly, and remain *on the Present*, looking steadily a-long the piece until the next word of command.

* As the position is not altered, no Figure is necessary for this Motion.

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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

4th. *Load.*

1*st.* Bring up the right foot to the inside of the left heel, and at the same time drop the firelock briskly down to the priming position; the top of the cock opposite the right breast; the muzzle raised to the height of the peak of the cap, and pointing directly to the front, which will throw the firelock into the hollow of the right side; the left hand continues to grasp the piece at the swell, holding it firm and steady; seize the cock with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

Words of Command.	Motions.
4th. *(continued.)* *Load.*	*2d.* Half cock—by drawing back the right elbow briskly, bringing it down on the butt of the firelock.



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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

5th. Handle Cartridge.

1*st.* Draw the cartridge from the pouch.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	MOTIONS.
5th. (*continued.*) *Handle Cartridge.*	2*d.* Bring the cartridge to the mouth, holding it between the fore-finger and thumb, and bite off the top of the cartridge.



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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

1*st.* Shake some powder into the pan.	WORDS OF COMMAND. *6th. Prime.*

PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	
6th. *(continued.)* *Prime.*	*2d.* Shut the pan with the three last fingers.



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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

3d. Seize the small of the butt with the above three fingers.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

6th.
(continued.)
Prime.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

7th. *Bout.*

1*st.* Turn the piece nimbly round to the loading position; the butt within two inches of the ground; the lock towards the front, and the muzzle of the piece near the breast; the right hand to be brought on that part of the barrel on which the sight is placed; both feet to be kept fast in this position.



Pl. 2



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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

2d. Drop the butt on the ground without noise; shake the powder into the barrel, putting in after it the paper and the ball.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

7th. (continued.)
'Bout.

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PLATOON EXERCISE.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	MOTIONS.
7th. (continued.) 'Bout.	3d. Seize the top of the ramrod with the fore-finger and thumb.

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Pl. 22



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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

1st. Force the ramrod half out, and seize it back-handed exactly in the middle.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

8th.

Draw Ramrods.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	MOTIONS.
8th. (continued.) *Draw Ramrods.*	2*d.* Draw the ramrod entirely out, and turning it with the whole hand and arm extended from you, put it one inch into the barrel.



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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

1*st.* Push the ramrod down, holding it as before, exactly in the middle, till the hand touches the muzzle.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

9*th.*
Ram down Cartridge.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

Words of Command.	
9th. *(continued.)* *Ram down Cartridge.*	2*d.* Slip the fore-finger and thumb to the upper end, without letting the ramrod fall further into the barrel.

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PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

3*d*. Push the cartridge well down to the bottom.

4*th*. Strike it two very quick strokes with the ramrod.

(The position being still the same, no Figure is given.)

WORDS OF COMMAND.

9th.
(continued.)
Ram down Cartridge.

PLATOON EXERCISE.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.	
10th. *Return Ramrods.*	1*st.* Draw the ramrod half out, catching it back-handed. 2*d.* Draw it entirely out, (as in 1st motion of drawing ramrods,) turning it very briskly from you, with the arm extended, and put it into the loops, forcing it as quick as possible to the bottom; then face to the proper front, the finger and thumb of the right hand holding the ramrod, as in the position immediately previous to drawing it, and the butt raised two inches from the ground.
11th. *Shoulder Arms.*	Strike the top of the muzzle smartly with the right hand, in order to fix the bayonet and ramrod more firmly; and at the same time throw it nimbly up, at one motion, to the shoulder.

N. B. Though the butts are not come to the ground in casting about, as accidents may happen from it, yet they are permitted, while loading, to be so rested; but it must be done without noise, and in a manner imperceptible in the front.

☞ *The Figures have been drawn, through the Platoon Exercise, without bayonets, on account of the general circumscribed limits of the Plates.*



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APPENDIX.

UNFIXING BAYONETS.

MOTIONS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Unfix Bayonets.

1*st* and 2*d*. The same as ordered for *Fixing*.

3*d*. The left hand grasps the firelock above the upper swivel; and with the right the bayonet is struck off, and immediately returned to the scabbard: the firelock to be placed quickly in its original position at Ordered Arms. *(Vide the two annexed Figures.)*

APPENDIX.

FIRING.

FRONT RANK KNEELING.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Ready.

Bring the firelock briskly up to the *Recover*, catching it in the left hand; and, without stopping, sink down with a quick motion upon the right knee, keeping the left foot fast; the butt end of the firelock at the same moment falling upon the ground; then cock, and instantly seize the cock and steel together in the right hand, holding the piece firm in the left, about the middle of that part which is between the lock and the swell of the stock; the *point of the left thumb to be close to the swell*, and pointing upwards.

As the body is sinking, the right knee is to be thrown so far back, that the left leg may be right up and down; the right foot a little turned out; the body straight; and the head as much up as if shouldered: the firelock must be upright, and the butt about *four* inches to the right of the inside of the left foot.

Pl. 29.



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APPENDIX.

FRONT RANK KNEELING.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Present.

Bring the firelock down firmly to the *Present*, by sliding the left hand to the full extent of the arm, along the sling, without letting the motion tell; the right hand at the same time springing up the butt by the cock so high against the right shoulder, that the head may not be too much lowered in taking aim; the right cheek to be close to the butt; the left eye shut, and the fore-finger of the right hand on the trigger: look along the barrel with the right eye, from the breech-pin to the muzzle, and remain steady.

Fire.

The trigger is pulled strong with the fore-finger; and, after pausing while you can count *one---two*, spring nimbly up on the left leg, keeping the body erect, and the left foot fast, bringing the right heel to the hollow of the left; at the same time drop the firelock to the *priming position*---half cock, and proceed with the priming and loading motions as before directed.

APPENDIX.

CENTRE RANK.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Make Ready.

Spring the firelock briskly to the *Recover*. As soon as the left hand seizes the piece above the lock, raise the elbow a little, placing the thumb of that hand upon the cock, with the fingers open by the plate of the lock; then, as quick as possible, cock the firelock by dropping the elbow, and forcing down the cock with the thumb; step, at the same time, with the right foot a moderate pace to the right, and keeping the left fast, seize the small of the butt with the right hand: the piece must be held in this position perpendicular, and opposite the left side of the face; the butt close to the breast, but not pressed; the body straight, and full to the front—the head erect.

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APPENDIX.

REAR RANK.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Make Ready.

Recover and cock, as before directed for the centre rank; and, as the firelock is brought to the recover, step briskly to the right a full pace, at the same time placing the left heel about six inches before the point of the right foot. The body straight, and square to the front.

APPENDIX.

HANDLING ARMS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Handle arms. The left hand is brought smartly up to the muzzle, the whole person remaining steady.

In easing arms, the left hand is brought down with life upon the sling.



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APPENDIX.

KNEELING RANK CHARGING BAYONETS.

The left foot remains immovable; the left leg is kept nearly perpendicular; the butt steadied against the right knee, which is accordingly thrown back a little; the head perfectly upright; the body inclining just so much forward as will enable the Soldier to grasp the firelock with the utmost firmness and vigour, but without the least constraint; the lock downwards. The elevation of the piece in this position should not exceed 45 degrees.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Charge Bayonets.

APPENDIX.

PILING ARMS.

WORDS OF COMMAND.

Pile Arms.

Front and rear rank men of each file (if three deep) face to the right, turn their lock outward, and cross the muzzles and tops of ramrods.

The centre rank man places his butt about thirty inches to the left, the lock also outward, and crosses the muzzle of his firelock with those of the front and rear rank men, so that both the tops of their ramrods are placed across, between the ramrod and barrel of the centre rank.

N. B.—If only two deep, the first file on the left face to the right, and cross with the front rank man of the next file;—the rear rank man of that file crossing with the third file;—and so on.

THE END.

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